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January 24, 2001 LB 24

leading indicators. Would appreciate it if you could give support to this and see if we can't get this process started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Byars, it's my understanding you are handling the committee amendments for the Health Committee. Is that correct?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, I am, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You're welcome.

SENATOR BYARS: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the committee amendment makes three technical changes to LB 24. The green copy of the bill leaves a deadline for making appointments to the task force vague and undetermined, but the task force required to begin its work on July 1st of this year. The committee amendment simply takes out the language about the deadline for making appointments to the task force and, in effect, the appointments need to be made by July 1st anyway for the task force to begin its work. Number two, the Department of Health and Human Services is designated as the lead agency required to provide the staff support to the task force and the Department of HHS Finance and Support, as well as the department's Regulation and Licensure Division, are required to provide the additional assistance as necessary. And the committee amendment also sets a termination date for the bill and the task force of January 1, 2003, and I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Suttle would move to amend the committee amendments, AM0086. (Legislative Journal page 388.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said that I was extremely concerned about the size of this task force, it's hard to get 32 people together and have them agree on anything, so